FOX HUNTING
IN
AMERICA

ALLEN POTTS

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Allen Potts.

1912.

FOX HUNTING IN AMERICA

BY

ALLEN POTTS

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WASHINGTON
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TO

G. R. P.

M. F. H. OF CASTLE HILL HUNT

HAPPY CREEK FARM
ALBEMARLE CO., VA.
1911

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NO. 67.

OX hunting in America, as well as in Great Britain, had its beginning around the year 1700. In England long before that time, and indeed as early as 1611, the fox was hunted by the farmer and the petty squire, but the pursuit was not considered really sport and was treated with great contempt by the sportsmen of those days, who held that stag hounds gave royal recreation and that the chase of the hare came next in importance. In America, however (and when I say America, I speak of the colonies of Virginia and Maryland for those early days), the sport of hunting any animal with hounds cannot very well have taken place until the end of the seventeenth century (1690) for the reason that the first settlements were upon the banks of streams, and for many years thereafter there were no fields over which hounds could run and, indeed, the settlers possessed neither hounds nor horses, even if the country had been adapted to hunting.

The colony in Virginia, founded at Jamestown in 1607, was almost swept away by the great massacre in 1622, and for a year thereafter the colonists lived within stockades, never daring to wander beyond sight of a primitive fort. There is no record that fox hounds existed in the colony at that time and, indeed, the records of the Virginia Company from 1619 to 1624 contained no mention of foxes, or hounds, or of hunting.

In Maryland, where the first settlement was founded at St. Mary's, near the present site of Annapolis, in 1634, the same state of affairs existed, and it seems, therefore, hardly probable that the statement made in *Outing* of October, 1897, by Mr. Hanson Hiss, in his very interesting article, "The Beginning of Fox Hunting in America," to the effect that in Queen Anne County the first fox hunt in America took place in the year 1650, is correct. That fox hunting in America had its beginning in the colonies of Virginia and Maryland is undisputed, for the reason that the Quakers of

MIDDLESEX HUNT, OF MASSACHUSETTS

One of the best. The hounds are all English, and the master and his servants are perfectly turned out

Pennsylvania, the Dutch of New York, and the Puritans of New England looked askance at the frivolities of this wicked sport and, indeed, although the sentiment against fox hunting in Pennsylvania was withdrawn shortly after the middle of the eighteenth century, the Quakers of Long Island practically forbade the sport in New York until the period following the Revolutionary war, and in New England there was no fox hunting until the conclusion of the Civil war.

It is very true that in all the colonies settled at that time gray foxes were plentiful, but except in Virginia, Maryland, the Carolinas, and the eastern portion of Pennsylvania foxes were hunted for the bounty that was placed upon their heads, and were hunted with guns, and not run down with hounds. It is interesting to note that there is a wide difference of opinion relative to the red fox in America. The Century Dictionary declares that "the common fox of North America is very similar to the red fox of Europe, being probably not specifically distinct," while almost every writer on sport declares there were no red foxes in America until they were imported from abroad, the gray fox being the only genus found in this country by the settlers. There has for years been a legend to the effect that red foxes were first brought to America from England by the British officers stationed in New York, and that the animals were turned loose on Long Island, escaping to the mainland, however, during a hard winter, when the Sound was frozen over, and coming South by way of New Jersey. Another interesting story, told by a writer in Volume 1 of the *Turf Register*, is that the red fox was imported to America from Germany, and that not until the year 1814 was any fox seen in Virginia near the James River, except the native gray. The writer, whose letter is dated Richmond, October 13, 1829, declares that this first red fox was chased in Goochland for three years and finally given up as a bad proposition, because it was impossible for the best hounds of the neighborhood to even

run him to earth. The true story, however, of the importation of the red fox to America, is evidently the one told by Mr. Hiss, and verified by Colonel Skinner, editor of the *Turf Register*, who says that in the month of August in the year 1730, in the County of Talbot, eight prosperous tobacco planters of Maryland discussed fox hunting over huge bowls of mint julep and determined to bring over English foxes in order to secure the same sport that many of them had enjoyed in England. The commission was given to the captain of the schooner "*Monaccasy*," and on his next trip from Liverpool he brought to Maryland eight pair of red foxes, consigned to a Mr. Smith. The description of the entertainment, which took place when the foxes were liberated, is worthy of interest. A great ball was given and all the gentry of the province were invited to be present, while the country bumpkin also viewed the festivities from a distance. The next day there were horse races between the thoroughbreds from Virginia and Maryland, after which the red gentry were released.

So it seems that Maryland was the home of the red fox until the winter of 1779, when the English fox crossed over the frozen waters of the Chesapeake Bay and the Potomac River into Virginia, and so made his way south, displacing in a number of localities the native gray fox. It is a peculiar coincidence that the importers of the red fox into Maryland were residents of Talbot County, the word "talbot" being a slang expression used in England to signify a hound.

Harking back to the beginning of fox hunting, it is only proper to say a word of fox hunting in general. The sport seems to belong practically to the English-speaking race, for while there are packs of hounds maintained in France and in Italy, the hunts of these countries are of a theatrical kind, while the sport in Great Britain and America is bred in the bone of the people and has played an important part in the affairs of these countries, the greatest statesmen, soldiers and jurists of England and America having been ardent and earnest fox hunters.

OVER THE WALL
"Horse high, bull strong, pig tight"

CHAPTER II.

In England.

Speaking first of the mother country, from which the hounds of America were brought and from which the red fox of America was imported, it seems there was no regular pack of fox hounds maintained in England until about the year 1690, when Lord Arundel, of Wardour, swung his pack from the hare to the fox. In a letter printed in *The Quarterly Review* in 1832, Lord Arundel, a descendant of the noble sportsman of 1690, writing to Mr. Apperley, says: "A pack of fox hounds were kept by my ancestor, Lord Arundel, between the year 1690 and 1700, as I have memoranda to prove." This pack was hunted in Wiltshire and Hampshire Counties, in England, and was finally sold to Mr. Hugo Meynell, known as the father of modern fox hunting.

Mr. Thomas Boothby is also a claimant for the honor of having kept the first regular pack of fox hounds, and it is known that he hunted in Leicestershire County before 1700, but little is known of the style or extent of his performances. His hunting horn still exists, and upon it is the inscription: "With this horn he hunted the first pack of fox hounds then in England, for fifty-five years." The old gentleman was an out and out sportsman and very religiously inclined, and in order to bring together the church and the hunt he presented to his parish a chime of bells tuned to resemble the sound of hounds in full cry. To these two sportsmen, then, Lord Arundel and Mr. Boothby, belongs the honor of introducing fox hunting as a real sport into England, although it was not until later that the fox became the fashionable and aristocratic pursuit.

Long before the days of Lord Arundel the fox had been hunted in England, but, as I have said before, only by the farmer class and the petty squires whose purses could not stand the strain of keeping buck hounds or of taking part in the noble chase after the stag. These men of

moderate means chased sometimes the hare and sometimes the fox, and again the otter, taking their fun where they found it and enjoying their sport none the less because it was not considered fashionable.

In 1611, Jervase Markham, in his "Country Contentments," says: "The fox and the badger are less cunning than any other animal pursued by the hound." But Mincheu, in 1599, had written: "Whosoeuer loues good wine hunts the foxe once a yeere," showing that even at the beginning of the seventeenth century the fox, although held in low esteem, was hunted. As late as 1683, Richard Blome, in his "Gentlemen's Recreation," declares that the chase of the fox is not so full of diversity as that of the hare.

Those who hunted the fox before 1690 followed on foot, and there is no record of any fox hunt upon which men on horse back followed. A price was set upon a fox's head and vulpicide was not recognized as an offence. The solicitor general of Great Britain in 1641 declared that, "Hares and deer are beasts of the chase, but foxes and wolves are only beasts of prey."

Even after an impetus had been given the sport of fox hunting by the Arundel and Boothby and Meynell packs, it was not until the end of Queen Anne's reign that fox hunting had become a recognized sport in England, and for years the packs were maintained very much like those in Virginia before the Civil War. It was the custom to hunt at break of day, and frequently the sportsmen donned their hunting clothes for dinner, sat at the table until near daybreak and then mounted their horses and rode away to the chase. The pack was scattered through the neighborhood and was called together by the huntsman sounding the horn from some high hill or going around and collecting the various couples from the farmer attendants who fed and cared for them.

A most interesting story is told of how fox hunting changed in a single morning from a sport of second degree

to the one of first importance. The fifth Duke of Beaufort in 1762 was out stag hunting and, while passing with his stag hounds through a wood jumped a fox, which faced the open country and which the pack pursued with such music and vigor that the Duke declared he would never again hunt the stag, and thereupon the Badminton pack became fox hounds and have remained so to this day.

Another story is told of the Duke of Grafton, who hunted foxes nearly thirty years before the Duke of Beaufort made the sport fashionable. The Duke of Grafton on hunting mornings would go down from London at daybreak to his place at Croydon, and in so going was forced to cross the Thames at Westminster ferry. The delays of the ferry annoyed his grace to such an extent that he had a bill passed in 1736 to erect Westminster bridge, so that he would not be retarded on his way to follow hounds. To his grace of Grafton also belongs the distinction of being the first sportsman to hunt the bagged fox, for in order to always insure a day's run, he had a servant carry a live fox in a hamper so that if hounds could not find in covert they would at least discover a "bagman."

To the love of fox hunting must be attributed the Saturday holiday of Parliament, for Sir Robert Walpole brought this holiday about so that he might hunt the fox at least one day a week.

It might be mentioned that at least two men in England in those early days hunted for more than half a century—Mr. Thomas Boothby for fifty years and Mr. John Ward, the master of Pytchley, for fifty-seven years, and I will add here that at least one Virginian has hunted as long—Mr. Julius Octavus Thomas, of Four Square, in Isle of Wight, Virginia, has kept hounds and hunted for fifty-six years.

In England, and I might say in Ireland and Scotland as well, the sport has grown to enormous proportions. It is said that during the present year there are no less than five hundred packs of hounds maintained in the United King-

Type of English foxhound

Another type of English foxhound

dom, and most of these packs are hunted regularly two or three times a week and with great form and ceremony. Hounds are raised as carefully as horses and their training is given as great attention. Foxes are protected to such an extent than a man would as soon commit murder as kill a fox. In a word, fox hunting is the greatest sport in Great Britain today, and it is great because it has received the attention and care and thought of the very best and most intelligent people of Great Britain.

Although fox hunting in America can hark back almost to the time of the beginning of the sport in England, yet America cannot boast of any such progress as Great Britain has achieved, and the reasons for this are so apparent that it is hardly necessary to mention them. In England there has been for generations a great leisure class whose wealth permitted its members to indulge in all manner of recreations and to give all of their time and attention to the pastime which attracted their fancy, while in America the struggle for existence has been so great, the fight for wealth has been so insistent, that Americans have been forced to snatch a few hours here and there for play between the times of more serious occupation. It is very true that the planters of Virginia and Maryland were wealthy and that they belonged to the leisure class, but the country was vast and thinly settled, the servants were negroes, and the country gentleman took his pleasures more indolently than his cousins across the sea.

In addition, and probably more important than any of the reasons given, is that Great Britain, despite the wars in which she has been engaged, has fox hunted as regularly as the season came around, and therefore there has been no interruption in the sport and the hunts have grown in number and importance. The only check that fox hunting has received has been the building up of the open country and the appearance of wire where formerly there was only open meadow or an occasional line of timber.

CHAPTER III.

In America.

Fox hunting in America should be divided into three distinct periods, each period, it is interesting to note, being ended by war and each period marking a growing interest in the sport. The first period dates from colonial days up to the Revolutionary war in 1775. During that period fox hunting was engaged in only by the people of Virginia, Maryland, eastern Pennsylvania, western New Jersey, North and South Carolina and southeastern New York. This is easily accounted for when one recalls that the sport did not appeal to the Puritans of New England, nor to the Dutch of New York, nor to the Quakers of Pennsylvania. For the most part the sport was confined to Virginia and Maryland, there being but little interest in fox hunting in the Carolinas, where deer hunting was in vogue.

Around Philadelphia there was one known pack which was maintained by the gentlemen of Philadelphia and the farmers of New Jersey across the river, while in New York there was but one pack, of which Mr. John Evers was master. This pack was kept at Hempstead and was brought over from England along with horses and servants around 1770. Colonel George Washington was one of the subscribers and the British officers and the residents of New York were the patrons of the sport. The war of the Revolution put an end, however, to fox hunting practically until the surrender of the British at Yorktown in 1781, when there began the second period of the sport.

This period, beginning in 1781, lasted until the Civil war in 1861, and during that time fox hunting engaged the attention of many people in Virginia, Maryland, North and South Carolina, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, and of a very few people in New York, Georgia and Florida. The sport was still unknown in New England, and really had its home in Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania. In New York there was but one pack maintained, known as the Brooklyn Hunt Club, founded in 1781, the year of

Lord Cornwallis' surrender, and of but short duration. In Georgia and Florida the sport was carried on for the most part by Virginians, who took their packs south, notably the Henrys, who in this way introduced into Georgia and Florida the famous Henry hound, named for Patrick Henry.

In Kentucky a number of packs sprung up, among them the well known July and Walker hounds, and in Tennessee a similar state of sport prevailed. So it was that Virginia and Maryland with Pennsylvania were the home of fox hunting during this second period, and I shall later give an account in some fashion of the nature of the sport.

The Civil war put an end to this period in 1861, and there was no hunting practically in the United States until after 1865, when packs that had been practically dispersed were again assembled, hounds were imported from England and the sport was put on a firmer basis than ever before. The sport was continued in the States in which hounds had been already run, and in addition packs were organized in the District of Columbia, in Massachusetts, in Ohio, New Hampshire, Vermont, Missouri, Illinois, and over on the Pacific Coast in the States of Washington and Oregon. The style of hunting largely changed to the English method, many hounds and some horses were imported, English hunt servants were brought over, and pink coats for the first time made their picturesque appearance in the hunting field.

This in brief is a statement of the three periods of the sport of fox hunting in America, although it does not include the sport in Canada, where as early as 1826 the Montreal Hunt had been founded and the Toronto Hunt in 1850. These two hunts, therefore, belong to the second period, but the London Hunt of Canada, founded in 1885, belongs to the third period.

Having thus shown how the various sections of the country gradually took an interest in the sport, I return to fox hunting in colonial days.

THE LATE "PAT" COLLIER

Master of Meadow Brook and of Monmouth Hounds. Mr. Collier was a firm advocate of the Irish hunter.

CHAPTER IV.

In Colonial Days.

The first mention of hounds in Virginia occurs in the court records of Northampton County in 1691, mentioned in Dr. Philip Alexander Bruce's "Social Life of Virginia in the Seventeenth Century." Mike Dixon, living in the county of Northampton, was called before a magistrate upon a complaint that he kept a pack of "dogs," and his house being near the road, these "dogs" ran out and attacked passersby, greatly to their terror and injury. Mike Dixon appeared before the magistrate and plead that his pack of "dogs" was necessary to the safety of the colonists in that they destroyed "foxes, wolves and other varmint," and therefore it would be better to re-survey the road, running it at a greater distance from his house, than for him to destroy his pack. It seems that his honor, the justice, agreed with Mike Dixon and that the road was moved back so that the hounds might be undisturbed. If hounds were held in such esteem in 1691, it is only fair to suppose that some time previous to this date "dogs," as they were called, were known in the colony. When they were first brought over, I have been unable to discover for, as I have said, the records of the Virginia Company make no mention of any importation.

The earliest settlers had but few horses and had but little chance of hunting, for they traveled by boat exclusively, and any hunting that was done was in the woods near the stockades. Beverley, in his "History of Virginia," written about 1705 or 1706, mentions the fact that the settlers kept "mungrils or swift dogs, which are used," he says, "for pursuit of the fox, the raccoon and opossum," and he tells how in every pack of these "mungrils" are three or four large dogs which protect the pack from the attack of bears and wolves and other large wild animals. The hunts in those days were evidently undertaken at night and on foot, but the only account of what

The death of a fox

actually took place is described by Beverley in these words: "And then the sport increases, to see the vermin encounter those little curs." That the packs were very small is shown by the French version of Beverley, which speaks of the pursuit of the fox and coon "avec trois ou quatre petits chiens." The "mungrils," or "little curs," mentioned by Beverley are evidently the English beagle, while the "large dogs" are English stag hounds or bloodhounds.

Just here it may be well to say that of course all American hounds were imported from England. In those early days there were four classes of hounds for hunting—the stag hound, the fox beagle, the Southern hound (called Southern on account of its being bred in the southern part of England), which resembles a bloodhound, and the harriers, or beagle, used for hunting hares. The old-fashioned type of American hound is for the most part descended from the Southern hound, or from the cross of the beagle and the Southern hound, but from time to time English hounds were imported, and up to the beginning of the nineteenth century the American type greatly resembled the English hound of the provinces—that is to say, the American hound was practically a counterpart of the English hound, which was trencher-fed and which was owned by the petty squire and farmer class of Great Britain. Some English writers declare that the English hound is a cross of the bloodhound and the pointer, but it seems to be the concensus of the best writers that the fox hound of today is a mixture of bloodhound, grayhound and bulldog.

An early Virginia writer describing a Virginia hound, says: "It resembles a cross between a male wolf and an ordinary bitch."

It is the opinion now of sportsmen that the gray fox only was hunted in Virginia up to the year 1779, but it is interesting to note that Dr. Bruce, in his "Economic History of Virginia in the Seventeenth Century," declares that gray foxes were abundant and that red foxes were also found. This statement is in accord with Goodman's "American

TYPE OF AMERICAN HOUND
Notice the difference in size and in feet from the English.

A morning meet in front of George Gould's home at Lakewood, New Jersey. The pack is English.

Natural History," which states that the red fox is found in the Middle and Southern States.

One of the most interesting facts, if true, that I have discovered, is in William Byrd's story of "The Dividing Line," printed in 1728, which states that both foxes and wolves abound in the colony of Virginia; that the wolves are harmless and run at the approach of man, but that the foxes hide in the briers and rush out and attack the passerby. As the Virginia foxes of that period were of the gray genus, I cannot help thinking that Colonel Byrd has made a mistake, and should have said that the foxes run at the approach of man and that the wolves hide in the briers and attack the passersby.

Possibly the most entertaining account of fox hunting in Maryland in the early days is that in the two articles which appeared in *Outing* in October and November, 1897, written by Mr. Hanson Hiss, descendant of one of the hard-riding men after hounds around Baltimore. It seems more than probable that Mr. Hiss is mistaken in his assertion that fox hunting was a sport in Queen Anne County, in Maryland, as early as 1650, for the reason that it is hardly probable that within sixteen years after the founding of the colony at St. Marys the country could have been in condition for hunting and that hounds should have been imported. Be that as it may, it is certainly a fact that America owes Maryland a debt of gratitude for having imported the red fox in 1730. Scarf, in his "History of Maryland," describes the Maryland fox hound as one of great toughness and endurance, and a cross between the English fox hound and the Irish stag hound, the result resembling a mongrel, but better suited to the roughness of the country than the pure bred hound. It is certain that the lure of the red fox and the sport that he furnished drew many Virginia sportsmen to Maryland who craved the excitement of a straightaway chase after the red fox rather than the dodging and twisting of the gray.

Scarf, in his second volume of the "History of Mary-

A Pennsylvania fox hunter of the new school. His mount looks like what the Irish call a "leper."

land," describes the fox hunting life of those days in the following quaint fashion:

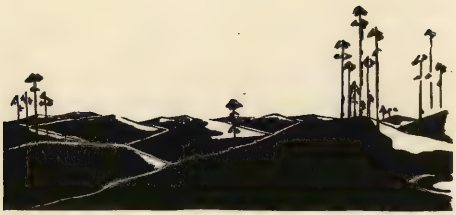
"When night would overtake them, they would be sure of a simple but hearty welcome at the nearest manor-house, where, no matter how many guests there might be already, there was always room for more. Stabling was always to be had, and there would be plenty of pone for the tired hounds. In the evening there would be an abundance of old-fashioned punch for the men and dancing to the music of Uncle Billy's ever-ready fiddle. The next morning the bugle would sound, 'mount and away,' and refreshed, invigorated and full of pleasant anticipations, this gay party of happy young fox hunters would start out again to repeat the performance. In those early days the young folks knew no restraint and, consequently, no false modesty, and all led a life of pure and untrammeled freedom."

So hunting continued in Virginia and Maryland up to the time of the war of the Revolution, there being a noble rivalry between the two States as to which of its gentry had the fastest horse and the swiftest hound. The story is told that Mr. Carroll, of Carrollton, once remarked to General "Lighthorse Harry" Lee, that fox hunting was the grandest sport ever invented, taken part in by man and sanctioned by an all-wise Providence. "True," replied General Lee; "but it is hell if your nag is slow and your hounds are poor," to which Mr. Carroll replied: "I refer, sir, to fox hunting in Maryland."

In these hunts around Baltimore Colonel Washington, Generals Braddock, Lafayette, Judge Pinckney, Chief Justice Taney, Alexander Hamilton and a host of others took part, but it was not until the year 1818 that the Baltimore Club was organized. Prior to that time the hounds in Maryland and Virginia were individual packs owned by country gentlemen who either hunted their pack for the pleasure of their friends or joined their packs with those of their neighbors on great occasions. It is a matter of

ON THE WAY TO A MEET
The hounds are half-bred (American-English).

considerable interest that in these days the ladies rode to hounds much more frequently than at the present time, and it was not an unusual thing for a dozen or more ladies in their flowing habits to follow over fence and ditch with the best of the hunters.



CHAPTER V.

In Washington's Time.

Mr. George Washington Parke Custis, of Arlington, writes in the *American Turf Register* of September, 1829, a delightful account of General Washington as a fox hunter. He says that Colonel Washington, between the years 1759 and 1774, devoted all the time that he could spare to the pleasures of the chase. The Colonel, as he was at that time, cared little for shooting or fishing, but was a bold and eager fox hunter, devoted to his horses no less than to his hounds. The kennels at Mt. Vernon were about a hundred yards from the old family vault, set in a large enclosure in which was a spring of running water. Colonel Washington inspected his kennels morning and evening, just as he did his stables, and was very careful to draft his pack so that no hounds remained who over ran or who lagged behind. It was his delight to entertain sportsmen from Maryland and Virginia for weeks at a time. The "Father of His Country" is pictured as always superbly mounted and in a sporting costume—a blue coat, scarlet waistcoat, buckskin breeches, top boots, velvet cap and carrying a crop with a long lash. His huntsman was his friend and neighbor, "Billy" Lee, and many a gray fox went down before the screaming pack. After the Revolutionary war was over, in 1783, General Lafayette sent to General Washington a pack of French stag hounds of great size, and the hounds were used by the General for fox hunting. The pack numbered twenty-six couples and they were so fierce that it is said no one dared go near them without a lash. The General's favorite mount was a blue roan horse called "Buckskin," while "Billy" Lee, the huntsman, rode "Chinkling," a great jumper, and carried a French horn. This French horn must have been a special compliment to General Lafayette, but I have no doubt that following the Revolutionary war everything was anti-English, the feeling even being carried to

such an extent, I am informed, that the rule of the road was changed so that Americans drove to the right instead of to the left, as they did and still do in Great Britain.

Mr. Custis writes that the foxes were all gray except one huge black fox, which after seven or eight hard runs was let alone for the reason that he was thought to resemble, not only in color, but disposition, the fiend incarnate.

"Of the French hounds," writes Mr. Custis, "there was one named 'Vulcan,' and I bear him in better reminiscence from having often bestrid his ample back in the days of juvenility."

In stating that the foxes were all gray with the exception of one black fox, Mr. Custis evidently alludes to the period before the Revolution, for it is known that after 1779 red foxes were plentiful in the country around Mt. Vernon.

Despite the prejudice of the Quakers in Pennsylvania, fox hunting seemed to have taken hold of its people around 1750, and it is known that a red fox was killed in Perry County, Pa., in 1789. In 1766 the first organized hunt club in America was founded by the citizens of Philadelphia and the farmers who lived across the river in New Jersey, the club being known as the Gloucester Fox Hunting Club, and the exact date of the organization being December 13, 1766. The preliminary meeting took place at the old Philadelphia Coffee House, on the corner of Front and Market Streets, and about 125 names were enrolled, among them being the most prominent citizens of Philadelphia and New Jersey. From this Gloucester Fox Hunting Club sprung practically all the hunt clubs around Philadelphia, notably the Rose Tree, the Lima, the Radnor and the Brandywine, of which latter Mr. Charles E. Mather is the present master.

Mr. Mather and Mr. A. Henry Higginson, master of Middlesex, and Major Wadsworth, of the Genesee, have done more for the English hound in America than any other sportsmen, having imported and bred the very best of the

English strain. The Radnor pack is composed of hounds half English, half American, while most of the other packs of Pennsylvania, although known as American packs, enjoy a large infusion of pure English blood. Fox hunting at the present time is probably on a better footing in Pennsylvania than in any other State, with the single exception of Virginia.

The next fox hunting club to be founded was the Brooklyn Hunt, which is known to have existed in 1781. The forerunner of this pack was maintained and hunted at Hempstead by John Evers, in 1770, of whom I have spoken before. The Revolutionary war must have put an end to Mr. Evers' establishment, and so the New York sportsmen rallied to the Brooklyn Hunt, of which there is little known except that a meeting took place on November 19, 1781, at "The Narrows" (now Fort Hamilton), and that a guinea was offered for a good, strong bagged fox.

Fox hunting around New York was not heard of again until after the Civil war, when in 1874 Frederick Skinner and Joseph Donohue maintained a pack of fox hounds at Hackensack, in Jersey. Messrs. Skinner and Donohue belonged to the old-fashioned, unfashionable type of fox hunters who laid on their hounds, then climbed into a buggy and followed as best they could, knowing the country and pretty generally getting in at the death. The fame of the Hackensack pack, however, spread abroad and soon sportsmen from New York began to attend the meets. Some of these city people had hunted in England, and soon the demand was made that a club should be organized and a pack purchased, and so in 1877 Mr. Gray Griswold went abroad and purchased an Irish pack of harriers. On his return the pack was housed at Meadowbrook, and the club was christened the Queen County Hounds. Even as late as this period there was some opposition among the Quaker farmers to hunting, but the spirit soon disappeared and from the Queen County

beginning sprung the Meadowbrook Hunt, the Monmouth Hunt, the Rockaway Hunt and half a dozen others.

New York, however, cannot be passed by without speaking especially of the Genesee Valley Hunt, of which Major W. Austin Wadsworth is master. Major Wadsworth's father, General Wadsworth, learned from the Fitzhughs of Virginia the art of fox hunting and passed it on to his son, who in 1876 became master of the Genesee Valley Hunt. Major Wadsworth has hunted hounds, therefore, for nearly forty years, and during that time has built up his pack by importation and drafts from The Meath in 1880, from Lord Fitzhardinge in 1884, Mr. Fernies in 1887 and The Holderness in 1894.

LARKING

When a modern fox hunter cannot get enough exercise in riding after hounds he jumps fences during "checks," much to the disgust of the ancient fraternity.

CHAPTER VI.

New Hunts Organized in the Northern States.

In Massachusetts the sport of fox hunting was unknown until 1866, when Mr. E. F. Bowditch, of Millwood, known in Massachusetts as "The Father of Fox Hunting," organized a pack. His example was followed by the Myopia Hunt in 1879, the Norfolk Hunt in 1895 and by the Middlesex Hunt in 1897. Middlesex is probably as well known as any hunt in America on account of the vast amount of time, trouble and money that the master, Mr. Higginson, has expended in building up an English pack of the very first class.

Before returning to the various packs in Virginia and Maryland of the second and third periods, I will briefly tell of the packs that are now maintained in other localities, only mentioning those which are regularly organized and which come directly or indirectly under the direction of the National Hunt and Steeplechase Association.

In the State of Illinois there are two hunts—the Owentsia, organized in 1901, and the Midlothia, organized in 1903. Both of these packs, I am informed, furnish excellent sport and are well maintained.

In Missouri there is the Missouri Hunt and Polo Club of Kansas City, organized in 1902. This club has one of the most complete kennels in America.

In New Hampshire but one club is maintained—the Portsmouth Hunt, founded in 1885 by Dr. A. C. Heffinger, a Virginian, who returned to fox hunting after having served in the Navy.

Across the line in Vermont is the Shelbourne Hunt, on the borders of Lake Champlain. Mr. J. Watson Webb is master and the kennels contain fifteen couples of English hounds.

Ohio is represented by the Chagrin Valley Hunt, of which Mr. W. T. White is master.

In Kentucky, which boasts any number of private packs,

the recognized hunt is the Iroquois Club, of which General Roger D. Williams is master. The club rides behind American hounds exclusively and, indeed, among the many crack packs of Kentucky there will be found only the American hound, although there are but few establishments which have not introduced in recent years a strain of the pure bred English fox hound.

Out on the Pacific slope, Oregon was the first State to introduce fox hunting, the pack being known as the Portland Hunt, of which Mr. McGrath is master, the hounds being American. This club was founded in 1901. However, it was not many years before Washington State became interested in the sport, and the Seattle Hunt Club was founded in 1910. This organization has been recognized by the National Hunt and Steeplechase Association during the present year, 1911.

In Georgia, while there are many private packs, there are but two recognized packs—the Chatham Hunt, of Savannah, of which Mr. John K. Culver is M. F. H., and the Eleventh Cavalry Hunt, of Fort Oglethorpe, the only hunt club maintained by the United States Army. This club has as its master, huntsmen and whip officers of the cavalry regiment stationed at Fort Oglethorpe. The hounds present an excellent appearance and the sport has found great favor among the horsemen around Atlanta.

In South Carolina Mr. Hitchcock's hounds, a private pack at Aiken, represent the State. Mr. Hitchcock, who is one of the best known sportsmen in America, and who has played a most important part in fox hunting, both in England and in Long Island, maintains an American pack. The country around Aiken is flat and sandy and there are few fences, but excellent sport is furnished for the most part to northern visitors who spend the winter at Aiken. In this connection I might as well say that there are but two recognized private packs in America—the one that I have just mentioned, known as Mr. Hitchcock's hounds, and a pack known as Mr. Maddox's hounds,

belonging to Mr. James K. Maddox, of Warrenton, Va., who is not only a keen follower behind hounds but is one of the best gentleman riders between the flags in America.

In North Carolina there are several private packs dating back as far as the old Raleigh Hunt Club of 1828. This club, which was really no club at all, but a party of gentlemen who hunted together, has long since passed out of existence. Under the date of December 13, 1829, one of the members of the club gives a description of a chase that results in the death of the fox at a Mr. Alfred Lane's. He tells that the hunt was in honor of a Maryland gentleman, Mr. D. Barnum, who was in at the death, and names among those present the Messrs Haywood, General Beverley Daniel and Charles Marley, afterwards governor of the State. He adds these words, showing that the red fox up to 1829 had not reached North Carolina: "We have no reds among us, all ours being grays." *The Turf Register* of 1830, however, records the fact that Raleigh Club declined a challenge from the Smithfield Club (N. C.), the challenge being for ten "dogs" a side, two mornings, and the points of the match to be "striking, trailing, fleetness and closeness."

At present there is a pack maintained at Pinehurst, a summer resort in North Carolina, and the sport very much resembles that given by Mr. Hitchcock's hounds at Aiken.

CHAPTER VII.

In Virginia and Maryland.

Coming now to Maryland, which divides with Virginia the honor of being the birthplace of fox hunting in America, the Baltimore Hunt Club demands the highest consideration for the reason that for many years this organization furnished the very best sport in America. There were more red foxes in this section than in any other and the sportsmen were not only keen but hospitable, inviting many prominent Virginians and other hunters to take part in the chase. The club seems to have been keenly alive to the importance of keeping the pack up to a high standard, for there are many records of hounds imported from England. As late as 1830 the newspapers announce that among the important arrivals at Baltimore is "one fox hound bitch, the leader of Lord Doneghal's pack, with five pups by his crack dog; the hound and the pups for the Baltimore Hunt and all sent in by Mr. Adair."

From Baltimore to Washington the charm of fox hunting spread, and a pack was purchased by the residents of that city some time about 1825. It is said that the hounds were imported from England by the British Ambassador but they were not long kept together, the sport being furnished by gentlemen owning private packs in Maryland and Virginia.

According to the *American Turf Register* of the years 1829 and 1830, the red foxes about this time did not furnish as excellent sport as they had done a score of years previous, and many sportsmen wrote to the editor, Colonel Skinner, declaring that the red fox was not as game an animal as it had been. It is hardly fair to believe this statement of the case, but I think that the real reason of red foxes being killed in shorter time and in less distance than during General Washington's hunting days was because hounds had been vastly improved and were better able to run into their foxes than were the

mongrels of which many of the early packs were composed. In addition to this the country was becoming yearly more open, giving the hounds an advantage which they did not previously possess.

Many volumes could be written about the fox hunts that took place in Maryland and Virginia up to the time of the Civil war; of a great circle of hunts in which the packs of Captain Turret, General Gibson, Mr. Chichester and Mr. Darnes were joined, and such as the hunt which took place on New Year's Day, 1830, when the citizens of Jefferson, Berkeley and Loudoun Counties, of Virginia, and Washington County, of Maryland, met, one thousand strong, at Whitings Neck and chased a red fox with a pack of 150 fox hounds. The last sentence of the invitation to this hunt reads as follows: "No cur dogs permitted to enter the circle."

The story of one of these fox hunts greatly resembles another, and the hunts which took place around Washington and Baltimore were only examples of those which occurred in many parts of both States. Colonel Thomas H. Carter and his neighbors maintained an excellent pack at "Pampetike," in King William County, and up to the day of his death the Colonel delighted to tell of the many chases after a giant fox, named for the rebel, Nat Turner, whose body was ringed with white and who was never captured. In Albemarle County, at "Castle Hill," hounds had been kept since 1742, when Dr. Thomas Walker imported the first lot from England. The gentry of both States were hunting mad, and the presence of a pack of hounds was the signal for all kinds of merriment. Dr. Thomas Nelson Page, in one of his sketches of Virginia life, has pictured the scene of a fox hunt in Virginia, which describes the sport of the day in a way that brings it to one's very eyes. He writes:

"The chief sport, however, was fox hunting. It was, in season, almost universal. Who that lived in that time does not remember the fox hunts—the eager chase after

'grays' or 'old reds!' The grays furnished more fun, the reds more excitement. The grays did not run so far, but usually kept near home, going in a circuit of six or eight miles. 'An old red,' generally so called irrespective of age, as a tribute to his prowess, might lead the dogs all day, and end by losing them as evening fell, after taking them a dead stretch for thirty miles. The capture of a gray was what men boasted of; a chase after 'an old red' was what they 'yarned' about. Some old reds became historical characters, and were as much discussed in the counties they inhabited as the leaders of the bar or the crack speakers of the circuit. The wiles and guiles of each veteran were the pride of his neighbors and hunters. Many of them had names. Gentlemen discussed them at their club dinners; lawyers told stories about them in the 'lawyers' rooms' at the courthouses; young men, while they waited for the preacher to get well into the service before going into church, bragged about them in the churchyards on Sundays. There was one such that I remember. He was known as 'Nat Turner,' after the notorious leader of 'Nat Turner's Rebellion,' who remained in hiding for weeks after all his followers were taken.

"Great frolic these hunts were; for there were the prettiest girls in the world in the country houses round about, and each young fellow was sure to have in his heart some brown or blue-eyed maiden to whom he had promised the brush, and to whom, with feigned indifference but with mantling cheek and beating heart, he would carry it if, as he counted on doing, he should win it. Sometimes the girls came over themselves and rode, or more likely were already there visiting, and the beaux simply followed them by a law as immutable as that by which the result follows the premises in a mathematical proposition.

"Even the boys had their lady loves, and rode for them on colts or mules; not the small girls of their own age (no 'little girls' for them!). Their sweethearts were grown young ladies, with smiling eyes and silken hair and

graceful mien, whom their grown cousins courted, and whom they with their boys' hearts worshipped. Often a half-dozen were in love with one—always the prettiest one—and, with the generous spirit of boys in whom the selfish instinct has not yet wakened, agreed among themselves that they should all ride for her, and that whichever got the brush should present it on behalf of all.

"What a gallant sight it was! The appearance on the far hill in the evening with their packs surrounding them! Who does not recall the excitement of the house; the arrival in the yard, with horns blowing, hounds braying, horses prancing and girls laughing; the picture of the young ladies on the front portico with their arms around each other's dainty waists—the slender, pretty figures, the bright faces, the sparkling eyes, the gay laughter and musical voices, as with coquettish merriment they challenged the riders, demanding to blow the horns themselves or to ride some specially handsome horse next morning! The way, the challenge being accepted, they trip down the steps, some with little screams shrinking from the bounding dogs; one or two with stouter hearts, fixed upon higher game, bravely ignoring them and leaving their management to their masters, who at their approach sprang to the ground to meet them, hat in hand and the tell-tale blood mounting to their sunburned faces, with the beauty and pride of youth!"

The Civil war put an end to all hunting for four years, and at the end of this bloody period the people of Virginia and of Maryland were so poverty-stricken that they were unable to indulge in the sport as they had before the days of '61. It is true that remnants of the packs still remained, but the sport for several years lapsed to the style of colonial days. Hunting was indulged in, but on a very small scale, and many sportsmen were forced to join their one or two couples of hounds to form a pack. This condition of affairs brought about the club system of fox hunting.

Prior to the war there had been no organized clubs in Virginia, and the fact is easily accounted for when one remembers that each country house in the State was practically a club house open to the friends of its owner. Every country gentleman who maintained a pack of hounds welcomed any neighbor, and these in turn would pass on and hunt with some other neighbor's pack, so that until the North and South were at odds, a Virginia or Maryland sportsman could secure a run every day of the week. This picture of hospitality disappeared with Lee's surrender at Appomattox and gradually a new order of things prevailed in fox hunting. Clubs began to be formed so that many sportsmen could share the expense of maintaining the pack, and in this way the hunt organizations of Maryland and Virginia were formed. In Virginia this mode of hunting was further promoted by the advent of a number of Englishmen, many of whom were keen sportsmen.

In Maryland the Elkridge came into existence in 1878, the Green Spring Valley in 1892, the Patapsco in 1898, the Dunblain, just out of Washington, in 1895, and the Chevy Chase, supported by Washington patronage, in 1892. One of the moving spirits in Maryland hunting of the present day is Mr. Redmond C. Stewart, a sportsman who has striven long and earnestly to build up fox hunting in America. As master of the Green Spring Valley he has some thirty-seven-and-a-half couple of hounds in his kennels, for the most part American, but some containing a strain of pure bred English.

Over near Washington, the Dunblain Hunt has ceased to exist, its successor being the Chevy Chase. A queer incident in connection with the Dunblain Hunt was that its huntsman was a Frenchman, the Comte de Jamtelle. It is said that despite his Parisian birth, this gentleman furnished excellent sport to the Washington riders. The pioneer pack, however, at the National Capital after the Civil war, was kept by a Mr. Haskins, a grocer, in 1870, who had the heart of a true follower of hounds.

In Virginia, without reckoning the half hundred private packs that are still in existence all over the State, there are at present nineteen packs recognized by the National Hunt and Steeplechase Association, and when one remembers that there are but fifty-seven recognized packs in the whole United States, the inference follows that fox hunting is more firmly established in Virginia than in any other section of the country. A list of the Virginia hunts comprises the Albemarle, the Blue Ridge, the Cassanova Hunt, the Castle Hill, the Cobbler, the Deep Run, the Gaston, the Keswick, the Loudoun, the Lynchburg, the Middleburg, Mr. Maddox, the Oak Ridge, the Orange County, the Piedmont, the Remlik, the Riverside, the Tomahawk, and the Warrenton.

Of these clubs the Castle Hill, Deep Run and Gaston use English packs, the other clubs riding behind so-called American packs, although almost in every case the hounds are either half-breed—that is to say, American-English—or possess a large infusion of English blood. The principal hunting center in Maryland is around Baltimore and outside of Washington, while in Virginia the best hunting is found around Gordonsville, Charlottesville, Leesburg and Warrenton.

Among the Virginia fox hunters, especially those of the old school, the organized clubs are not held in high esteem. The old time sportsman has a great contempt for a pink coat and the mere mention of a "drag," which, by the way, means "scent," is like a red rag to a bull, and so many of them form coteries of their own, making pilgrimages to the haunts of the red fox and hunting in the good old-fashioned way that prevailed before the time of the Civil war. Among the best known of these old fox hunters are Mr. Sneed, of North Carolina, and Judge Aiken, of Danville, Va., who yearly camp together on Roanoke River and make the red foxes run for their lives. In a recent letter Judge Aiken, speaking of fox hunters, describes the chivalry of the clan. He says:

"I have known many fox hunters and have run many packs. The hound is my favorite animal, and there is a bond of unison between all fox hunters and me. They are pleasant companions and manly men as a general thing. Captain W. P. Graves was the best manager of hounds in the field I ever hunted with, and he knew more about hounds. He was as refined and gentle as a knight, and I never heard him run down another man's dog, and when others beat his he always praised them and said he wouldn't tell a lie on a dog. He had a charming voice, and when a hard run pack heard it they took fresh life."

It is the fashion to declare that nothing is as good now as it was in by-gone days, but this fashion smacks of truth regarding fox hunting. I remember very distinctly hunting in the Isle of Wight County on February 6, 1905, with Mr. Julius Octavius Thomas, who on that day celebrated his seventy-first birthday, and also celebrated on the same date the fiftieth anniversary of his mastership of hounds. For a half century he had hunted regularly every season in Four Square, his ancestral home, except during the four years of the war, and the hounds behind which we rode in 1905 were the descendants of the pack which the old gentleman hunted in 1855. I quote from *The Times Dispatch* a brief description of the day's hunt which resulted in the death of a game red fox.

"A half century of fox hunting by the same master of hounds, with a pack made up of the descendants of the original pack, and with grandsons riding in the place of their grandfathers of fifty years before, marked an occasion without parallel in the annals of sport in this country. The very hunting horns (old cow horns) belonged to days of long ago, having been the property of those sportsmen, long since dead, who rode and cheered the hounds in the days when the master of Four Square was but a boy and the last century was in its middle age."

Another grand old sportsman was Colonel Richard Hunter Dulany, of Welbourne in Loudoun County, who

died in 1906, having hunted practically all of the eighty-five years of his life. Colonel Dulany was an ardent sportsman of the very best and highest type. He maintained the Piedmont pack at his own expense, and he never saw the fence so high nor the brook so broad that he would not have a try at it. It was Colonel Dulany who introduced the Horse Show into America before 1850, and his nephew, Rozier Dulany, of Washington, has a cup won by the Colonel at the Upperville Colt Show in 1850. I recall at the American-English Hound Trials in Piedmont Valley in 1905, when Mr. Harry W. Smith matched his Grafton pack of American hounds against Mr. A. H. Higginson's Middlesex pack of English hounds for $1,000 a side and a cup, that Colonel Dulany cut his wire fences seven miles down the Valley in order that the sportsmen might not be impeded. This hound match possibly called together the most representative gathering of fox hunters of recent times, for at many of the meets there were from seventy-five to eighty-five persons all superbly mounted and nearly all sporting pink, while representatives of twenty-six hunts witnessed the match, won by Mr. Smith's pack, although Mr. Higginson's hounds furnished such excellent sport that many clubs thereafter adopted the English hound.

Over the very country where this match took place occurred some thirty years ago a sporting event which attracted wide attention. Mr. Hal Dulany, son of Colonel Dulany, on his return from England, where he had been hunting, declared that he could follow the Piedmont pack over the stone walls of Loudoun County and could live with the hounds to the end. A wager was made and a date was set. Mr. Dulany secured a very fast and seasoned thoroughbred, placed him in a trainer's hands, who not only conditioned him but schooled him perfectly over the jumps. The hunter being in perfect condition, Mr. Dulany said that he was ready, and the match was on. It is said that for fifteen long minutes Mr. Dulany lived with the hounds, but after that time they disappeared into thin

Breakfast time in the kennels

air, and the thoroughbred was "all in." Since this occasion there has been no sportsman bold enough to declare that he can live with American hounds over the Piedmont country. I recall an incident in fox hunting which I believe has never been equalled in any country. During a fox hunt in Gloucester County, Va., the huntsman had occasion to cross York River, which is three-quarters of a mile wide. There being no ferry, he leaped his horse into an ordinary row boat, from three feet of water, had his hounds scramble into the boat, and made the trip across in safety.

CHAPTER VIII.

Hunting Notes.

It may not be amiss before ending this article to say a word about the cost of maintaining packs of hounds. In early days it was not an extravagance to keep a pack, and even now small packs may be maintained for a reasonable amount. But the great and fashionable packs cost the masters a small fortune every season. In 1770 Mr. John Evers, as I have already stated, imported a pack together with horses and hunt servants, from England, and to this pack Colonel Washington was a subscriber. The mere mention of this importation strikes terror to the hearts of those who are not wealthy, but the fact is that the maintenance of hounds in that day was of no very great moment, and I doubt if Mr. Evers' pack cost him as much as $3,000 a year. The famous Belvoir pack, of England, which has been for generations owned by the Dukes of Rutland, cost for the season of 1786 only £775 10s, or less than $4,000, and in the establishment were eleven horses, three hunt servants and a dog feeder. The huntsman received as his salary £49 14s, or less than $250 a year, although he was the crack of all England. In order to show, however, how the keep of hounds has increased, it is only necessary to mention that the Quorn pack cost in 1901 £6,255, and that the probable cost of the Belvoir or Quorn at the present time exceed £8,000 or $40,000.

The question of the origin of the scarlet or pink coat has been so often asked that I have endeavored to learn how it was introduced as the emblem of fox hunting. The origin, however, is not known, and this despite a search of all the sporting historians. There is a legend to the effect that King Henry the Second ordered that those who rode to the chase should wear a pink coat and that they should be taxed accordingly, but this story has been pronounced absurd. It is known, however, that the pink dinner coat was introduced by the Meltonian dandies of the English

shires who disliked the custom of dining after a hard run in soiled pink riding coats, and who changed to a pink evening coat before sitting down to dinner.

Of course there are many hunts both in America and in England that sport some color other than pink as a livery. This custom springs from the habit of using the family color for the hunt.

The question of the introduction of top boots is also of some interest, and it seems to be the opinion of sporting writers that in the early days the riders wore high boots pulled over the knees, and gradually the custom came about to turn down the boot inside out around the calf of the leg, this inside, sometimes tan, sometimes pink and sometimes green, brought about the various styles of tops for hunting boots.

I have used freely in this article the *Turf Register*, the works of Dr. Philip Alexander Bruce, Dr. Thomas Nelson Page, Beverley's "History of Virginia," Scarf's "History of Maryland," A. J. Bradley's "Sketches from Old Virginia," "The Hunts of the United States and Canada," by A. Henry Higginson and Julian Ingersoll Chamberlin, *The Edinburgh Review*, "Hunting," by the Duke of Beaufort; "Hunting," by J. O. Pagett; "Kings of the Hunting Field," by Thormanby; "The Quorn Hunt and Its Master," by W. C. A. Blew; "The Records of the Virginia Colonies," "The Dividing Line," by William Byrd; "Four Square and Fox Hunting," by R. S. Thomas; outing magazines, and numerous books from the library of Colonel W. Gordon McCabe.